Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 01136 031757Z ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 /014 W $\,$

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1876

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ABIDJAN 1136

FOR AF/W DIRECTOR THOMAS W.M.SMITH FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, PFOR, IV

SUBJ: MEASLES VACCINE FOR IVORY COAST

- 1. WHEN I CALLED RECENTLY ON MINISTER OF HEALTH MOCKEY HE EXPRESSED TO ME HIS DISAPPOINTMENT THAT U.S. AID APPEARED UNABLE TO SUPPLY GOIC WITH 250,000 DOSES OF MEASLES VACCINE WHICH MINISTER OF HEALTH HAD REQUESTED IN OCTOBER OF LAST YEAR. MOCKEY POINTED OUT THAT MEASLES IS PRIME CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO HIGH RATE OF INFANT MORTALITY IN IVORY COAST AND PROBLEM WAS TRAGICALLY AGGRAVATED BY LACK OF VACCINE. I TOLD MOCKEY THAT I WAS UNFAMILIAR WITH THE MINISTER'S REQUEST BUT WOULD CHECK IMMEDIATELY TO DISCOVER WHAT HAD HAPPENED AND WHETHER SOMETHING COULD BE DONE ABOUT IT.
- 2. WITH ASSISTANCE OF MILES WEDEMAN AND DR.DAVID FRENCH OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF A PUBLIC HEALTH TEAM WITH REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF WHO, RESIDENT IN ABIDJAN, I HAVE DISCOVERED THAT MOCKEY'S REQUEST FOR MEASLES VACCINE FOR THE IVORY COAST WAS TRANSMITTED TO AID/W ON OCTOBER 13, 1976 BUT FOR REASONS UNKNOWN TO US HERE IN ABIDJAN WAS NEVER ACTED ON. A SECOND REQUEST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAS IN THE PAST WEEK BEEN FORWARDED TO AID/W WITH RENEWED REQUEST FOR PROMPT ACTION.

3. I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF AF/W WOULD WEIGH IN WITH AID TO MAKE SURE THAT THE SECOND REQUEST DOES NOT RPT NOT GET LOST IN BUREAUCRATIC LABYRINTH. I AM TOLD THAT THE RESPONSIBLE AID OFFICER IN WASHINGTON IS CLAY MIRACLE.IT WOULD

BE VERY HELPFUL TO OUR RELATIONS WITH GOIC IN GENERAL AND MINISTRY OF HEALTH IN PARTICULAR IF I COULD CALL MOCKEY WITHIN NEXT WEEK TO ASSURE HIM THAT MEASLES VACCINE WAS AVAILABLE AND GIVE HIM SOME IDEA OF WHEN IT WOULD ARRIVE. AS YOU KNOW, IVORY COAST OBTAINS FEW DIRECT BENEFITS FROM LARGE AMERICAN PRESENCE HERE AND IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT WE SHOW OURSELVES TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THEIR LEGITIMATE NEEDS IN AREAS LIKE THIS ONE.

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: SWEL, PFOR, EAID, IV

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